

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 IGA-02 /084 W
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R 180700Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY KIGALI POUCH
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 DAR ES SALAAM 0758

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELTN, EAID, ETRD, TZ, BY, CG
SUBJECT: STATE OF TANZANIA'S PORT AND RAIL FACILITIES

REF: (A) STATE 24983 (NOTAL), (B) BUJUMBURA 122 (NOTAL),
(C) DAR ES SALAAM 638 (NOTAL)

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY: IN PAST WEEK ECONOFF DIS-
CUSSED SUBJECT WITH NUMBER TRANSPORT OFFICIALS, INCLUDING DAR
PORT MANAGER; RESIDENT DIRECTOR OF EAST AFRICAN RAILWAYS
(EAR-T), WHO ALSO A DIRECTOR OF TANZAM RAILWAY (TAZARA);
AND GENERAL MANAGER OF AGENCE MARITIME INTERNATIONALE (AMI)
WHICH NADLES ALL FREIGHT TO EASTERN ZAIRE AND BURUNDI. TRANSPORT
SECTOR CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING NUMBER OF PROBLEMS WHICH RESTRICT
CAPACITY TO CURRENT TRAFFIC LEVELS. FORECASTS VARY BUT TRANSPORT
OFFICIALS GENERALLY AGREE SITUATION COULD BRIGHTEN IN MIDAYEAR
IF SCHEDULED IMPROVEMENTS OCCUR. IF SO AND UNDER CERTAIN
CONDITIONS, IT WOULD SEEM POSSIBLE MOVE 10,000 TONS OF CORN
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A MONTH TO ZAIRE VIA TAZARA AND ROAD (REF A). SIMILARLY,
BACKLOG FOR BURUNDI COULD BE REDUCED (REF B). EMBASSY NOT IN
POSITION VOUCH FOR FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND VIEWS WHICH
SUPPLIED BY TRANSPORT OFFICIALS AND MEDIA. OFFICIALS ARE SENSITIVE
TO TRANSPORT INQUIRIES FROM US, PARTICULARLY RE TAZARA, AND
POINT OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENTS DIRECTLY CONCERNED HAVE ACCESS
TO INFORMATION THEY NEED. END INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.

2. PORT OF DAR ES SALAAM -- IN 1976 PORT HANDLED ESTIMATED IN- AND OUT-BOUND 2.1 MILLION TONS CARGO, 10 PERCENT INCREASE OVER 1975. EXPORTS AND TRAFFIC FOR ZAIRE AND BURUNDI ARE SUBSTANTIALLY UP. PORT RECENTLY RECEIVED NUMBER OF CRANES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT FROM CANADA AND UK AND EXPECTS MORE IN NEXT FEW MONTHS. PORT NOW HAS INFRASTRUCTURE CAPACITY TO HANDLE ANTICIPATED TRAFFIC INTO 1980'S. PORT SITUATION MUCH IMPROVED OVER CONGESTION OF YEAR AND HALF AGO. BACKLOG OF GOODS IN PORT AREA AT MANAGEABLE LEVELS. MAJOR TEMPORARY PROBLEM IS LACK OF MAINTENANCE AND SPARE PARTS -- OVER 80 PERCENT OF FORK LIFT FLEET CURRENTLY INOPERABLE. MORE SERIOUS POTENTIAL PROBLEM IN COMING MONTHS IS ACCUMULATION OF GOODS IN PORT STORAGE DUE INABILITY TAZARA AND EAR-T TO REMOVE QUICKLY INBOUND TRAFFIC. THIS EXACERBATED BY UNPREDICTABILITY ZAMBIAN AND ZAIRIAN TRAFFIC AND UNWILLINGNESS THOSE GOVERNMENTS COMMIT THEMSELVES TO LONG TERM TRAFFIC PLANNING VIA DAR.

3. TAZARA -- ALTHOUGH TRAFFIC LOADS MUCH INCREASED OVER YEAR AGO, TAZARA CURRENTLY PERFORMING AT ONLY 45 PERCENT OF ITS DESIGNED CAPACITY OF 2 MILLION TONS (IN- AND OUT-BOUND) PER YEAR. PROBLEM IS SLOW TURNAROUND TIME OF ROLLING STOCK. AT ANY TIME SOME 700 TO 900 FREIGHT CARS (OR OVER ONE-THIRD OF FLEET) ARE IN ZAMBIA. MANY, PARTICULARLY BULK GRAIN CARS (OF WHICH TAZARA HAS 400), BEING USED FOR TEMPORARY STORAGE IN ZAMBIA. SINCE DAR HAS NO PORT SILO, GRAIN SHIPMENTS MUST BE SPACED AND ANY ADDITIONAL TONNAGE, SUCH AS REF A, BAGGED. PART OF ANY FOOD FOR ZAIRE DIVERTED TO DAR WOULD HAVE TO BE MOVED BY ROAD. EFFORTS UNDERWAY IMPROVE FREIGHT CAR TURNAROUND TIME. FOR ABOVE REASONS AND UNPRE- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DICTABILITY IMPORT TRAFFIC, ESTIMATES FOR ADDITIONAL CAPACITY RANGE FROM ZERO TO 20,000 TONS PER MONTH EACH WAY. ZAIRE HAS BEEN STUDYING USE OF TAZARA. (SEE E.G., LUBUMBASHI A-1, 76 KINSHASA 5078 AND 76 DAR ES SALAAM 918.)

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R 180700Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
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INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
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4. EAST AFRICAN RAILWAYS -- AS NOTED REF B, EAR-T EXPERIENCING SEVERE PROBLEMS. MAJOR DEFICIENCY IS LOCOMOTIVE POWER. BECAUSE OF SHORTAGE OF WORKING "MAIN LINE" LOCOMOTIVES, OVER 15,000 TONS OF BURUNDI AND ZAIRE BOUND GOODS, MUCH OF IT LOADED IN RAIL CARS, BACKLOGGED AT PORT. MAINTENANCE AND SPARE PARTS ARE ALSO PROBLEMS, WHICH WORSENERED BY BREAK UP OF EAC CORPORATIONS. THERE SOME CONCERN THAT SIGNIFICANT UGANDA TRAFFIC MAY ALSO START COMING VIA DAR AND EAR-T AS RESULT EAC PROBLEMS. REPORTEDLY, 11 NEW DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES FROM INDIA FOR MAIN LINE USE HAVE ARRIVED OR ARE ON THE WAY. IN ADDITION, 17 TANKERS FOR BURUNDI NEEDS ARE ARRIVING. RAILWAY DIRECTOR PREDICTS REDUCTION OF BURUNDI BACKLOG AND STEADY HANDLING OF INCREASED IMPORTS FOR ZAIRE AND BURUNDI BY MID YEAR. AMI LESS OPTIMISTIC. OVER NEXT 3 YEARS EAR-T PLANS TO ACQUIRE 30 MORE LOCOMOTIVES AND 800 FREIGHT CARS AS WELL AS TO RE-LAY MOROGORO-KIGOMA LINE. WORLD BANK TEAM IN MARCH WILL STUDY RAIL SYSTEM. EC BRUSSELS 1216 ADDRESSES PROPOSED EEC AID TO SYSTEM.

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5. KIGOMA PORT -- OPERATING FAIRLY EFFICIENTLY. CURRENT 200,000 TONS IN-AND OUT-BOUND TRAFFIC A YEAR IS PROBABLY MAXIMUM CAPACITY FOR ITS ONE BERTH AND LIMITED SHUNTING AND OTHER FACILITIES. THERE CURRENTLY ABOUT 2,000 TONS OF KIGOMA BACKLOGGED FOR SHIPMENT OUT VIA DAR. WHILE IMPROVEMENT IN EAR-T WILL HELP KIGOMA PORT WORK AT MAXIMUM CAPACITY, PORT JUST COULD NOT HANDLE ANY SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC. REPORTEDLY, BELGIANS MAY BE INTERESTED IN EXPANSION OF PORT, WHICH IS MANAGED BY AMI.

6. COMMENT: ADDRESSEES SHOULD BE AWARE THAT IN SOCIALIST TANZANIA TRASPORT OFFICIALS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, ARE SUSPICIOUS OF INQUIRIES BY USG. IT ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT OBTAIN INFORMATION CONCERNING TAZARA BECAUSE OF FEAR OF WESTERN SABOTAGE, USE

OF RAILWAY AND PORT AS ARMS SUPPLY LINE, CHINESE PRESENCE,
ETC. OFFICIALS QUESTION USG CONCERN AND NEED TO KNOW ABOUT
TRANSPORT CONDITIONS ("UNLESS YOU ARE WILLING TO PROVIDE
SUBSTANTIAL AID TO SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS"). THEY POINT OUT THAT
ZAMBIA, ZAIRE AND BURUNDI HAVE LARGE, COMPETENT EMBASSIES IN DAR
AND REGULARLY SEND HIGH LEVEL DELEGATIONS TO LOOK AFTER THEIR
TRANSPORT REQUIREMENTS. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO TRY MEET REQUESTS
FOR INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT BUT BELIEVE THREE EMBASSIES
NAMED IN BETTER POSITION GAIN ASSURANCES AS TO AVAILABILITIES
TANZANIAN PORT AND RAILWAY FACILITIES.
SPAIN

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